



IDAHO BARLEY NEWSBRIEF

Inside this Edition:

Farm Bill Workshops
Idaho Grain Market Re-
port marks 19th year
Agronomist Corner
Whole Farm Insurance
Dr. Neibling honored

**Idaho barley
check-off
dollars at
work... 2014
marks the 19th
year that the IBC
has produced
and distributed a
weekly Idaho
Grain Market Re-
port.** We have more
than 850 subscribers
world-wide.

**The IBC places a
high priority on pro-
ducer risk manage-
ment education.**

Since 2001, the IBC has
received a total of
\$156,900 in competitive
grant funding to conduct
this education. We have
sponsored 115 events
with more than 5,800 par-
ticipants. The IBC and UI
Extension have submitted
another grant application
this month for 2015/16
education programs.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR FARM BILL / CROP INSURANCE WORKSHOPS

WORKSHOP AGENDA:

**Lessons learned from 2014 sprout damage & why it matters to
maltsters and millers – *maltster* invited and *Reuben McLean*,
Grain Craft (southern and eastern Idaho locations only)**

**Crop Insurance – review of barley and wheat policy coverage and
potential changes in 2016 - *Ben Thiel*, RMA Spokane Regional
Office Director**

**Farm Bill – overview of key provisions & on-line calculators or de-
cision tools to compare PLC and ARC – *Ben Eborn*, University of
Idaho Extension and *Jeremy Nalder*, FSA State Office [North Idaho
workshops – *Ken Hart*, University of Idaho Extension]**

**Supplemental Coverage Option (SCO) - how it works for wheat
and barley – *Ben Thiel*, RMA Spokane Regional Office Director**

Moderated by *Kelly Olson*, Idaho Barley Commission

SOUTHERN IDAHO SCHEDULE: 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., with lunch

Dec. 1 – St. Anthony – Fremont County Extension Office

Dec. 2 – Idaho Falls – Shilo Inn

Dec. 3 – Pocatello – Red Lion Hotel

Dec. 4 – Burley – Burley Inn

Dec. 5 – Twin Falls – Red Lion Canyon Springs

NORTHERN IDAHO SCHEDULE: 8:30 a.m. to Noon, with breakfast

Jan. 12 – Craigmont – Community Center

Jan. 13 – Lewiston – Lewis Clark State College – Williams Conference
Center (west-central part of campus with easy parking access)

Jan. 14 – Plummer – Benewah Medical Center

Jan. 15 – Bonners Ferry – Boundary County Extension Office

WEBINAR on Understanding the Idaho Harvest 2014 Weather Events and Winter 2015 Weather Outlook

Presented by the Idaho Barley Commission and National Weather Service

WHEN: NOVEMBER 19 at 10 am MST

LOG IN: <http://connect.cals.uidaho.edu/barley/>

Barley Agronomist Corner

Christopher W. Rogers, Ph.D.

Dr. Christopher Rogers is the University of Barley Agronomist based at the Aberdeen Research & Extension Center, Aberdeen, ID.

Winter research trial plantings have been completed, and studies have been established focusing on fertilizer management and pest management for winter malt barley production. Studies specifically investigating fertilizer nitrogen application timing and rate for winter malt varieties in southeastern Idaho are lacking. Thus, we have initiated a field study focused on nitrogen management for both fall/preplant application and spring/topdress application to maximize yield while meeting malting quality specifications. As nitrogen is a key factor in determining grain yield and protein content, a range of nitrogen rates were applied this fall and a range of nitrogen rates will be applied this spring. By investigating multiple nitrogen rates in the fall and spring, we can begin to develop nitrogen response data that will allow growers to improve their nitrogen management. Additionally, research trials have begun with Dr. Arash Rashed focused on aphid and wireworm populations in southeastern Idaho. In these trials, we hope to better understand these pests in an effort to improve management options. We are currently working to provide updated information through University of Idaho Extension Publications and cereal schools in February. In the upcoming weeks, we will also be advertising for a Research Technician at the University of Idaho Aberdeen Research and Extension Center and would be glad to hear from qualified candidates. We look forward to hearing from you, as the feedback and contributions from all growers, county extension personnel, consultants, and barley industry stakeholders are crucial for creating a productive research and extension program to address the current needs of Idaho growers.



IBC cuts FY 2015 budget

At its quarterly meeting held October 21 in Aberdeen, the IBC discussed its **2014 Crop Crisis Action Plan** which emphasizes assistance to growers who suffered malting barley quality losses in the 2014 harvest and an aggressive marketing campaign to move the large unanticipated feed barley supplies. The board discussed the likelihood of declining barley check-off revenues as a result of the harvest losses and took steps to lower its approved income by 27% and expenses by 5%, resulting in a substantial draw-down in reserves.

2014 Idaho Barley Industry Service Awards announced

The Idaho Barley Commission awarded its **2014 Idaho Barley Industry Service Award** to Dr. Gongshe Hu, ARS barley breeder (far right) and Chris Evans, scientific technician (far left), for building one of the most productive malting and feed barley breeding programs in North America.



RMA announces Whole Farm Revenue Insurance will be available in Idaho in 2015

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Risk Management Agency (RMA) announced on November 6, 2014 that the new **Whole-Farm Revenue Protection insurance policy is now available for the 2015 crop year.** The policy allows producers to insure between 50 to 85 percent of their whole farm revenue and makes crop insurance more affordable for producers.

Whole-Farm Revenue Protection allows these growers to insure a variety of crops at once instead of one commodity at a time. That gives them the option of embracing more crop diversity and helps support the production of a wider variety of foods.

"USDA is committed to making crop insurance available and affordable to as many producers as possible. Whole-Farm Revenue Protection is another example of how we're working with, and listening to, producers to create a safety net that meets their specific needs," said RMA Administrator Brandon Willis.

The 2014 Farm Bill allowed RMA to create the whole-farm crop insurance policy. However, RMA began working on this policy months before the 2014 Farm Bill was passed. Through input from key stakeholders, the Whole-Farm Revenue Protection insurance includes a wide range of available coverage levels, coverage for replanting, provisions that increase coverage for expanding operations, a higher maximum amount of coverage, and the inclusion of market readiness costs in the coverage. Whole-Farm Revenue Protection is tailored for any farm with up to \$8.5 million in insured revenue, including farms with specialty or organic commodities (both crops and livestock), or those marketing to local, regional, farm-identity preserved, specialty, or direct markets.



UI Extension Irrigation Engineer Howard Neibling honored

Dr. Howard Neibling, Kimberly-based University of Idaho Extension irrigation management engineer, was recently honored along with his colleagues working on a 20-state project known as Microirrigation for Sustainable Water Use. These scientists received the **2014 Experiment Station Excellence in Multistate Research Award.**

Neibling's research on using microirrigation to boost corn silage production while reducing the amount of water required has focused on fields near Kuna. That work showed microirrigation, which uses tubing to apply water directly to the soil at the crop's roots, boosted production over center pivot irrigation. Yield increased to 32 tons per acre from 28 tons. The water required dropped by 10 to 15 percent.

Neibling's work on irrigating corn for silage, which is the stalks chopped and stored while green, will continue with other strategies. Large numbers of burrowing rodents, mostly pocket gophers, from surrounding public lands undermined the use of buried lines because the animals chewed holes in them.

The new strategy Neibling plans to pursue is the use of cheaper plastic tape products that will be used for a cropping season, then recycled.

Neibling honored, continued from page 3

The advantage for dairy operators and those growing feed for them is the tape can be applied to irregularly-shaped fields that are not suitable for center pivot irrigation. Tape can also be used on the corners of pivot-irrigated fields that normally produce less because they can be difficult to water.

Dairy farmers can benefit economically by improving production on fields closer to their operations and reducing haul costs.

Neibling has worked on the multi-state project since he joined the UI faculty 22 years ago. The project was established in 1974.

Neibling's work helps ranchers improve water-use efficiency on irrigated pastures, hay fields and all of the state's irrigated crops. He works with the Anheuser-Busch global sustainability campaign by helping barley growers increase water use efficiency.

His current barley project focuses on helping growers near Osgood, Ririe and Grace better use weather data and new technology for irrigation scheduling. Anheuser-Busch recently funded the installation of six new AgriMet high-tech weather stations in southern Idaho to aid growers.